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Liberation Army

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The following report "By-Laws and Constitution of the People's Liberation Army", was confiscated in the Government raids on Communist centers in Manila during October 1950. The document, which was translated from Tagalog language, is dated 23 June 1950; however the principles contained therein were officially adopted on 29 March 1950. A section of the document entitled "Aims" is missing.

BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S  
LIBERATION ARMY  
(Hukbong Mapagalaya ng Bayan - HMB)

I. PREAMBLE

1. World War II has ended, the Axis powers were defeated, but Fascism was salvaged, improved and adopted by Anglo-American imperialists and their puppets. Freedom loving peoples everywhere who fought against Fascism now realize that even if we have won the war, we have not won that democratic and indivisible peace we all fought for. Fascist-imperialists and their puppets are now using the combined power of the bloody dollar, the policy of "divide and rule", and cold-blooded ruthlessness to reimpose their will and crush all democratic movements.
2. Our country is a typical example. The Government is a Fascist dictatorship of feudal landlords, comprador capitalists, professional political lackeys and bootlickers of imperialists, which is supported by an American imperialist trained and supplied mercenary Army. Terrible persecution or death faces any militant citizen who resists this tyranny. "Democracy" is a farce--"independence" a gross insult! Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Negros, Lanao and many other parts of the country lie prostrate under the iron heels of the Liberal Party's Wall street-backed Fascist dictatorship.
3. The judiciary, the legislative, the Electoral Commission, and all other branches of the Government bow meekly to the whims of Malacanan. The supreme law of the land, the Constitution, has been declared a "useless scrap of paper" by Quirino. When the Chief speaks, mailed fists clank, armored cars and tanks rumble, cannons boom, bombs explode and the war-ravaged people cower in terror. While the populace trembles, corrupt officialdom gorges itself with the flesh and blood of the nation.

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4. In the face of such national crimes and treachery we have no recourse but to act. We, all freedom, democracy and peace-loving Filipinos, consider it our supreme duty to our mother land, to our great national martyrs, to our countless unknown brothers who fell in the field of all past battles for freedom, to our posterity and to our cherished code of honor and righteousness, to band together and resort to our inherent right and only remaining means of saving our country and our statehood, armed uprising by revolution. But for the revolution to succeed, the people must be well organized so that they are able to coordinate all their efforts for the common purpose. And in the vanguard of this struggle must be a strong People's Army of Liberation. This People's Army must be guided by an efficient and disciplined organizational life. Patriotism and noble aspirations alone are not enough.

5. For our common guidance, discipline and action, we therefore adopt this By-Laws and Constitution, and such related regulations and basic principles, mentioned and fundamentally expressed therein, this 29th day of March 1950 in the Sierra Madre Mountains.

## II. NAME OF ORGANIZATION, FLAG, ANTHEM, BANNER, SYMBOL AND AUTHORITY

6. The name of this Army is "The People's Liberation Army" (PLA) (Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan -- HMB -- Huk).
7. We uphold the present national flag as our flag.
8. We uphold the present national anthem as our anthem, with the lyrics revised.
9. We adopt the Katipunan red revolutionary banner as our banner with the three K's replaced by H M B.
10. We adopt denim blue as our official uniform, but we are free to and must use all sorts of attire and camouflage in the course of our struggles.
11. We adopt white (to be represented by Philippine favorite white flowers) as the symbol of our personal and national integrity, character, and aspirations.
12. The People's Army is organized to fight for real democracy, peace, and freedom. The authority and supreme command of this Army is vested in a Military Committee formed by the Revolutionary Committee of the People's Liberation Movement. Direct administration, execution and supervision of its organizational, political and military activities is entrusted in a General Staff (GHQ) selected and authorized by the Military Committee.
13. When the aims of the national liberation movement have been obtained, when a "government of the people, by the people and for the people" has been established, then the authority and supreme command of this Army will be transferred to the duly constituted organs of the people's new democratic government.

## III. AIMS

## IV. BASIC ORGANIZATION AND METHODS OF WARFARE

14. The organization and combat tactics of the People's Liberation Army are set forth in, and based on the following documents:

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- a. HMB Military Discipline
- b. The Basic Spirit of the HMB
- c. Guerrilla Warfare

15. The GHQ of the HMB is given complete right and power to write, have executed, and execute the directives, circulars, special and basic orders and amendments in support of the above tactics.
16. Only the Military Committee (MC) has the power to change, amend or nullify any, or all, of the regulations mentioned above.

## V. AFFILIATION

17. Any Filipino citizen, male or female, who is of age, in good health, is loyal and has integrity, regardless of religion or Party affiliation, who fully and wholeheartedly accepts the objectives of the HMB, volunteers to join, and is ready to devote his entire life to fight for HMB aims, will be accepted as a regular member of the HMB.
18. Any Filipino citizen who meets the above qualifications, but who requests secret work in a village or barrio as a supporter or secret associate of the regulars, and who acts as a spy, informant, supply man, or in a similar capacity, is known as an irregular HMB member.
19. Any foreigner who resides in the Philippines, is loyal, clearly understands his responsibilities, and is in agreement with the stated principles of the organization, shall be considered the equal of a Filipino citizen, and may be accepted as a member of the HMB.

## VI. STRUCTURE OF THE HMB

20. The organizational framework of the HMB, from the top, downward, is as follows:
  - a. The Military Committee (MC)
  - b. The General Staff (GHQ)
  - c. The Regional Command (RECO)
  - d. The Field Command (FC)
  - e. The Battalion
  - f. The Company
  - g. The Platoon
  - h. The Squad
21. Protracted guerrilla warfare will be used for an unspecified time, so that the entire people may revolt, unite, and go forward. For this reason, the organization of the Army should be strengthened and each unit made more compact and maneuverable, and consequently more flexible and ready to fight, so that victory may be won according to plan.

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22. The units of the Army are to be reduced as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Strength</u>
Squad	Eight to fifteen men
Platoon	Two or more Squads
Company	Two or more Platoons
Battalion	Two or more Companies
Regiment	Two or more Battalions may be incorporated into a regiment when GHQ requirements necessitate activation of a unit of Regiment strength.

23. The Field Command (FC) is based upon adequate size, but is integrated regionally, so as to make use of the armed strength of the rebellious elements in a given region. The FCs have adequate strength and power to carry out their responsibilities successfully. The FC also must strengthen the fighting spirit and attract and unify the masses in its respective area, and comply with all orders which it may receive from the GHQ or RECO.
24. The RECO is the principal intermediary of the Army in a region, functioning as an agent of the GHQ. This unit must effectively lead and carry out the policies of the HMB, and act as inspectors of the FC in the area.
25. From the GHQ level downward, the divisions of training, intelligence and supply should be established and administered with ability and diligence. The entire existence and activity of the Army should be explained to these divisions, and there should be a clear understanding of the directives and aims as set forth by the GHQ.
26. The Political Bureau (PB) is responsible for the political life of the Army and for its education on all matters related to the principles of the class struggle and the state of the nation. This unit is also responsible for instruction in collective living and discipline; Army relations with the public; and for constant training and drill. For this reason the PB will establish schools; publish newspapers, literature, books, pamphlets, manifestos and propaganda; and stage cultural and agitational events, including the presentation of stage skits, dramatic plays, debates and songfests, and will be responsible for other propaganda activities.
27. The Military Department (MD) is responsible for the military action of the Army. It is also responsible for operational plans, for procuring weapons by various methods in order to increase the supply and for securing other supplies, undermining the enemy strength, arranging and supervising work, as well as for medical, ordnance, military and technical training. This unit also governs Army activities and supervises intelligence, finance, supply, special couriers, and similar activities.
28. The General Staff (GHQ) is composed as follows:

Commander in Chief  
Political Commissar  
Vice Commander in Chief  
Two Assistants

Under the GHQ are the training, intelligence and supply divisions.

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29. The Staffs of the RECO and FC have three components:

Commanding Officer (CO)

Plans and Training Officer (G-3)

Educational Officer (EO)

Under the RECO and FC Staffs are intelligence, supply, training and other units.

30. The system of HMB command is collective, but the individual leader is always ready and willing to take appropriate measures, in any capacity, whenever a situation arises in which part of the Army, or the entire Army is faced with an emergency.

#### VII. APPENDIX

31. Except by the MC or at a special session called by the MC which gives authority to each of the members present, no exceptions, additions or amendments will be made for the basic laws stated above.

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